A Quest for Humanitarian Effectiveness?

Debating the Evolution of Humanitarian Action: History, Practice and Performance

14-16 September 2015

Conference Report

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#Effectiveness

CONTENTS

I. IN BRIEF

- What does effective humanitarian action look like?
- How effective is humanitarian action?
- How can humanitarian action be more effective?

The rise of managerial culture, with its focus on efficiency, accountability, performance and results, has compelled humanitarian agencies to give more importance to evaluations of their activities and measurement of outcomes. Efforts to elaborate a common agenda on humanitarian effectiveness have contributed to, and grown out of, the professionalisation and bureaucratisation of humanitarian aid. It is, then, perhaps unsurprising that improving the effectiveness of humanitarian action has been treated primarily as a technocratic exercise. But this development has not been without contestation.

On 14–16 September 2015 the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) and Save the Children's Humanitarian Affairs Team (HAT) welcomed over 220 delegates to the Kings House Conference Centre in Manchester to discuss these opening questions, which have received increased attention over the last twenty years, partly because of heightened anxieties about the state of the humanitarian system.

Plenary: Clearing the Stones in the Road.

With a three-day programme of panels, workshops, book launches, poster presentations and exhibitions, this conference provided a platform for reflection on the evolution and consequence of existing approaches to understanding and improving humanitarian effectiveness. But delegates were also encouraged to explore the effects of providing assistance and protection across borders (in historical and contemporary terms) that tend not to be captured by the conventional discourse on effectiveness. Indeed, the theme of humanitarian effectiveness was used to frame a critical and constructive interdisciplinary conversation on the politics and practice of humanitarian action.

In association with the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA), the conference provided an opportunity for

humanitarian practitioners and policymakers, scholars and researchers, journalists and entrepreneurs to propose innovative research- and evidence-based alternatives to conventional approaches to improving humanitarian effectiveness and, in doing so, contribute to informing and influencing the outcomes of the WHS, for which humanitarian effectiveness is one of the four main themes.

By and large, presentations and discussions over the three days reflected a need to think differently about humanitarian 'effectiveness' and a desire for more space to do so. More specifically, there were many calls to challenge the political and organisational interests that determine how effectiveness is understood and assessed, to recognise and reform top-down and undemocratic structures within the humanitarian system, and to make humanitarian action more adaptable to context. A number of interesting proposals were also made for furthering the study of humanitarianism and for strengthening the relationship between theories and practice of humanitarian action. This conference report synthesises some of those key debates, discussions and proposals from across the three days but, of course, the time for talking and reflecting is never over and it is hoped that this event will serve as a platform for continued engagement moving forward.

Note: Where panels and speakers are referenced, the panel title is given in a footnote and the full programme for panellist details can be found on the conference website: www.humanitarian-quest.org

II. CONVERSATION AND CONTESTATION: KEY EMERGING THEMES

i. Exceptionality and the 'crisis frame'

The conference opened with a stimulating plenary on security risk management in the humanitarian sector featuring Mark Duffield (Bristol University) and Michaël Neuman (MSF).[1] Both speakers explored how the securitisation of humanitarian discourse and practice has increasingly shaped response priorities and action. This has resulted in a growing fear for staff safety, greater risk aversion, a move towards remote programming in apparently impenetrable conflict settings, and an acceptance of (sometimes even willingness for) 'containment' as part of humanitarian strategies. This development, Neuman argued, hints at an encroaching 'anti-humanism' in humanitarian practice, with individuals being seen to pose a threat that can apparently only be neutralised through norms, technologies and procedures. But it also exposes a tendency to emphasise the hyper-complex, unmanageable, and exceptional nature of humanitarian emergencies. This latter observation was picked up in other sessions that reflected on the idea of exceptionality and 'crisis'.

During a panel discussion about the Ebola outbreak,[2] panellists noted that not only did the international response mark a 'dangerous point in the securitisation of humanitarianism', but it was also an important example of how humanitarian activities shaped by assumptions about exceptionality, 'unprecedented-ness' and apparent 'unmanageability' can be

Responding to Ebola: Exploring the Limits of the Humanitarian System

inappropriate in the short and longer term. Fernando Espada (Save the Children), Marc Dubois (Humanitarian Consultant) and Yasmin Jusu Sheriff (Women's Response to Ebola in Sierra Leone) argued that such assumptions led the international response to undermine local health systems and grass roots supportive social networks that emerged both pre- and post-Ebola. It was also proposed that the idea of exceptionality was used to justify the significant delay in responding. '[W]as Ebola "bad enough" to force change?' one of the panellists provocatively asked.

[1] 'Humanitarian Effectiveness in the Age of Security Risk Management', Plenary 1, Monday 14th September 2015.

[2] 'Responding to Ebola: Exploring the Limits of the Humanitarian System', Panel Session 2, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

Andreas Hackl (University of Edinburgh) developed the analysis of the 'crisis frame' a little further,[3] arguing that use of the term veils a complex multiplicity of tensions at play in a given context – political, social, cultural and so on. Subsequent standardised 'rituals of response' (characteristic of the modern humanitarian enterprise) consequently often exacerbate pre-existing community power inequalities and exclusions. Moreover, the term 'crisis', he argued, makes certain responses possible and others less possible and, where an emergency begins to span the longer term as an 'enduring crisis', it then falls 'to the margins of humanitarian concern'. Exploring the decentralisation of humanitarianism to local actors, Claire Burniat (ActionAid International) and David Hockaday (Start Network) shared this critique,[4] noting that resources for response to an emergency only become available when it is categorised as 'big enough'. Smaller emergencies and recurrent or longer-term crises receive neither sufficient funding nor advocacy attention. International humanitarian funding mechanisms, the discussion highlighted, primarily support more established organisations to respond to larger crises, which weakens and neglects local capacities to respond in both that emergency and subsequent ones due to insufficient development of, or investment in, local agency and capacity.

Importantly, the subtext of this dialogue in relation to improving 'effectiveness' is less about how the international humanitarian community could have done more, quicker; rather, these discussions present a fundamental challenge to current institutional definitions of humanitarian crisis, as well as security risk, and to conventional assumptions about effective humanitarian responses. Perhaps, Neuman asked rhetorically in the opening panel, we should create a humanitarian environment where threats are viewed differently, where exposure is rewarded and risk is deemed acceptable. This is not about normalising crisis and risk situations, but about re-thinking often self-imposed barriers to delivering assistance.

ii. What's in a word?

'Effectiveness' was a term embraced and contested over the course of the conference.

Many conference delegates posed a challenge to humanitarian vocabularies, arguing that organisational jargon and management-speak used by NGOs and the UN have an institutionalising effect on those working in the humanitarian sector and can alienate those who do not. Why do we use the words that we use? Where do they come from and what values do they contain? And what impact does that vocabulary have on understandings of effectiveness?

'Effectiveness' itself was a term simultaneously embraced and contested over the course of the conference. In a workshop hosted on Tuesday by Save the Children's Humanitarian Affairs Team,[5] delegates discussed interpretations of the term in different humanitarian contexts. If effectiveness is the fulfillment of pre-defined objectives, who should determine those objectives? Is it even useful to have pre-defined goals in the first place? So contentious was the word that some argued it should be dropped altogether. Alex Jacobs (Plan International) stated that in his organisation they have dispatched with the term and, instead of discussing effectiveness, Plan focusses on programme quality. In terms of the

[3] 'Who decides what needs to be done? Power, politics and priorities in humanitarianism', Panel session 7, Wednesday 16th September 2015.
[4] 'Decentralising humanitarianism (I): "Localisation" in practice', Panel session 2, Tuesday 15th September 2015.
[5] 'Doing what works? Exploring Alternative Understandings of Humanitarian Effectiveness', Panel session 3, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

engagement between an aid giver and aid receiver, Jacobs proposed that effective aid and accountability should not be determined by the particular material supplies given, but rather by 'the minimum quality of relationship that is acceptable from the outset'.

There was overwhelming agreement that effectiveness frameworks are decided from the top (donors and large international humanitarian agencies), and shape the practices and experiences of those further down the humanitarian food chain (small, often local, humanitarian organisations and crisis-affected populations). Another point made by the workshop participants – one raised again in Wednesday's panel on accountability[6] – was that overly technocratic understandings of what is effective have brought about a preoccupation with numerical metrics and quantitative indicators of success that do not sufficiently capture human experience of assistance and recovery. This has also resulted in a turn away from 'dignity' as a key concern for humanitarian agencies, some delegates stated. Dignity, argued Margie Buchannan-Smith (ODI) in Wednesday's panel, must be brought back into the frame if assistance is to account for individual experiences and the nuances of community relationships and culture during a given intervention. And whilst 'dignity' is one of the five focus areas of the synthesis report of the WHS[7] (alongside safety, resilience, partnerships and finance), there is a question mark over how contextual relevance and cultural appropriateness can sit at the heart of these macro concepts.

Perhaps the most hotly contested word of the three days was 'resilience'. In the opening plenary on Tuesday David Chandler (University of Westminster), Lewis Sida (Humanitarian Aid Consultant) and Julian Reid (University of Lapland) explored and debated the origins of the term, with Chandler suggesting it is a 'bureaucratic organising principle' and essential for the way humanitarians do business.[8] Funding, Chandler and Sida agreed, can be attached to words and resilience is a term that can be readily packaged and sold. Reid located the term historically, dating the start of its influence in popular professional discourse to the 1960s and 70s in the ecological sciences where it was used to refer to the staying power of undesirable organisms, such as weeds. The term was adopted and adapted by the humanitarian sector decades later due to increasing interest in climate change and risk management. It came to describe individual adaptation to threats and, for sections of the humanitarian sector, became seen as a means of closing the gap between emergency response and longer-term development. Once children are in a feeding centre during a famine, remarked Sida, it is already too late; an earlier response is needed and this can be mobilised by the idea of building 'resilience'.

The Missing Link? Is resilience the solution for shortcomings to humanitarian action?

[6] 'Talking at odds? Accounting for context and culture in the 'accountability' agenda', Panel session 5, Wednesday 16th September 2015.

[7] https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/32aeda5fe90ceba891060ad51d0bd823da273cf9?vid=555986&disposition=inline&op=view

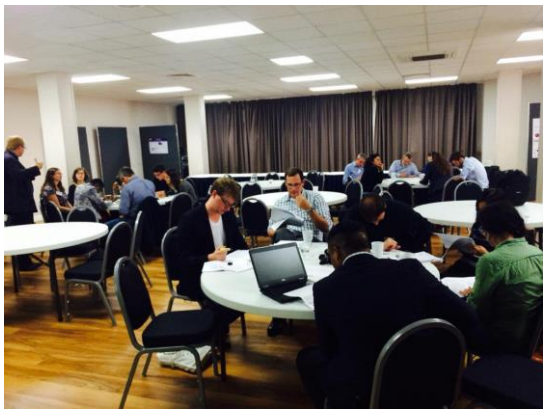
[8] 'The Missing Link? Is resilience the solution for the shortcomings of humanitarian action?', Plenary 2, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

However, its universal utility was questioned in both this plenary and a panel that followed. In the latter,[9] Rosalind Wolfe (HCRI, University of Manchester) noted the difficulty that resilience models have in accounting for gender, disability and poverty within a given society. Indeed, the current understanding of the term places obligations on individuals to care for themselves. This not only negates the responsibility of the developed world to address the way they produce risk for people in developing countries, it also requires a type of double resilience from those already marginalised in many affected communities, such as women and people with disabilities – as these individuals have to mitigate everyday marginalisation in addition to hazard threats.

In the plenary, Sida acknowledged that 'resilience' is not a particularly useful concept in the midst of a 'hot' conflict and a delegate from the audience built upon this point, stating that 'it's not that resilience can't work for conflict, it's that it's not appropriate. No-one should be asked to be resilient to rape, to abuse in detention and so on. For these concerns there is international humanitarian law, and protection is key'. In another panel, speakers agreed that there is a difference between individuals being resilient *in general* and being resilient *towards* something specific. The latter requires anticipation of a particular impending hazard and lifestyle adaptation around that threat, whereas being resilient *in general* demands a much broader look at what causes vulnerability in everyday life. Multi-year funding, it was suggested, can certainly allow for more coherent responses to vulnerability, but there was general skepticism over whether resilience programming really is the silver bullet for reducing exposure to disaster risks in the long term.

iii. Looking back and moving forward.

The conference hosted several workshops in which delegates could explore some salient issues in past and current developments of humanitarian practice. On Tuesday, the workshop on history and humanitarian aid led by Eleanor Davey and Bertrand Taithe (HCRI, University of Manchester) provided participants with the historical case studies first compiled by the German social worker Hertha Kraus.[10] Hertha Kraus' book was published in 1944 for the American Friends Service Committee, Brethren Service Committee and the Mennonite Central Committee by Herald Press, in Scottdale, Pennsylvania. Kraus (1897-1968) was of Jewish origin, converted to Quakerism and was a pioneer social worker in Germany before her exile to the USA in 1933. She became Professor of Social Work and Social Research at the Quaker Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia in 1936 and was involved post-war in German reconstruction of social services. The workshop was an opportunity to explore how humanitarians involved in the largest humanitarian response in history (the UNRRA social welfare programme assisting World War II affected states, 1943-47) envisaged education through the use of Kraus' text, and what role history played in training.



Making the past work for practice

[9] 'Tough times don't last, tough people do: Debating 'resilience' and 'empowerment', Panel session 2, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

[10] 'Making the past work for practice', Panel session 6, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

This focus on historical understandings, and uses, of terms and concepts such as 'protection', 'community services' and 'aid through employment' rang both very distant and incredibly relevant to conference discussions and current practices. On Wednesday, Norah Niland presented research from the Whole of System Review of Protection in the Context of Humanitarian Action, and asked whether humanitarian action, devoid of protection, can ever really be effective?[11] Delegates generally agreed it could not, and yet – Nilan explained – humanitarians largely do not view protection a *primary* responsibility. This chimed with earlier critical discussions around the humanitarian response to the Syria conflict in a panel on Tuesday, where Michelle Strucke (Oxfam), Jehan Bsesio (MSF) and Jessica Field (Save the Children and HCRI, University of Manchester) all agreed that a lack of protection – and related political engagement – in the face of barrel bombs and other military assaults against civilians were undermining all other humanitarian aid delivered in response to the conflict.[12] Bsesio remarked of areas under siege that sometimes it seems like it would be 'easier to smuggle rockets into Syria than medical gauze'. Elsewhere, delegates noted that 'protection' as a concept and action has been understood differently over the decades, from Kraus's understanding which centred on food security, to more recent understandings that centre on activities aimed at ensuring full respect for all rights of individuals as per international law. Beyond the organisers' desire to make history relevant to practice, there were serious questions raised about the sector's inability to capitalise on its past and experience, and on the need to take stock as part of shaping the agenda of major new responses.

The humanitarian sector seems to have an inability or unwillingness to learn from past experiences.

Taking stock and reflecting on past and recent developments in humanitarian action was a feature of several book launches throughout the conference, including: *Humanitarian Economics* by Gilles Carbonnier,[13] *On the Road to Istanbul: How can the World Humanitarian Summit make Humanitarian Response more Effective?* By the CHS alliance,[14] and *Humanitarianism: Key Debates and New Approaches*, a Manchester University Press series.[15]

iv. Is the humanitarian system fit for purpose?

'Is the system fit for purpose?' asked Antonio Donini (Tufts University), Randolph Kent (King's College London) and Christina Bennett (ODI) during Monday's panel exploring blockages and game changers in the humanitarian sector.[16] This question is highly relevant to issues of effectiveness and efficacy – does the humanitarian system do what it was set out to do? In some ways, yes, the delegates agreed. There was a general recognition of a humanitarian will to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively in order to help affected

[11] 'Protecting people, saving lives? Exploring 'protection in humanitarian action', Panel session 7, Wednesday 16th September 2015.
[12] 'Securitising and (de)politicising aid in Syria: Past, present and future', Panel session 4, Tuesday 15th September 2015.
[13] Gilles Carbonnier, *Humanitarian Economics,: War, Disaster and the Global Aid Market,* (Hurst: London, 2014), book launch Tuesday 15th September 2015.
[14] David Loquercio (ed), *On the Road to Istanbul: How can the World Humanitarian Summit make Humanitarian Response more Effective?* (CHS Alliance, 2015), report launched Monday 14th September 2015.
[15] Bertrand Taithe (ed), *Humanitarianism: Key Debates and New Approaches*, (Manchester University Press: Manchester, ongoing), series launch Monday 14th September 2015.
[16] 'Humanitarian Futures: Blockages and game changers in historical and future perspectives', Panel session 1, Monday 14th September 2015.

peoples, and an eagerness to learn and improve practice to meet a perceived growing need.[17] And this motivation has been notable in the WHS process, which is aimed at proposing 'solutions to our most pressing challenges and set[ting] an agenda to keep humanitarian action fit for the future'.[18]

However, a question that is asked much less frequently and is arguably more important is, fit for *what* purpose? This was the subject of much debate throughout the course of the conference, with delegates discussing the difference between humanitarianism and relief and asking: is there a difference? Should there be? On Tuesday a panel featuring Julian Egan (International Alert), Laura Hammond (SOAS), Juliano Fiori (Save the Children) and Rebecca Crozier (International Alert) debated whether peacebuilding and humanitarian action are, and should be, compatible in conflict zones.[19] Egan noted that the WHS is a timely opportunity to promote the complementarity of humanitarianism and peacebuilding. Crozier gave the example of Lebanon, where the training of local health workers in conflict resolution is successfully reducing tensions between refugees and host communities. Meanwhile, Fiori proposed that, in their dominant strains, both humanitarianism and peacebuilding emerge from the same liberal universalist worldview, but that their integration can produce political challenges. And Hammond argued that, while peacebuilding is meant to be transformative and political by nature, humanitarianism is not.

Meeting the Needs of People in Conflict.

Is humanitarianism political? And should it be? In Monday's plenary 'A Moment of Truth?',[20] Claus Sorensen (European Commission) suggested that 'political humanitarianism is a reality. Humanitarians have to be political, to use their leverage – but they must also be neutral in the field'. Here again the question of purpose arises – politics may be a 'reality' for humanitarians, but political transformation should not be the goal, suggested Sorensen. However, this stance was not without contest. 'Solidarity' argued Donini on Tuesday,[21] has much more traction in Latin America than neutrality but there has been 'epistemic colonisation' by the Western world. This raises interesting questions around different systems and norms. If we consider that there might be many humanitarianisms, potentially at odds with one another, then surely we must also ask 'which system' when we question whether 'the system' is fit for purpose? The UN-coordinated system has been shaped by Western norms and ideals of organisation, professionalisation and bureaucratisation, and it is underpinned by liberal ideas of rational science and evidence for 'best practice'. Speakers on Wednesday's panel on peacekeeping data suggested that Western humanitarian actors

[17] 'ELRHA panel debate: Research on the front line?' Panel session 3, Tuesday 15th September 2015; 'Spotlight on: Learning and Capacity Building (hosted by the Humanitarian Leadership Academy)', Panel session 6, Wednesday 16th September 2015.
[18] https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about
[19] 'Meeting the needs of people in conflict', Panel session 4, Tuesday 15th September 2015.
[20] 'A Moment of Truth? Exploring the challenges and limits to "effective humanitarian action" in response to the Syrian conflict', Plenary 2, Monday 14th September 2015.
[21] 'Humanitarian politic: money, power and norms', Panel session 2, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

have become so focused on numbers, evidence and data that they forget why they are collecting it in the first place.[22] Meanwhile, influential states such as Turkey, India, and Brazil are developing different approaches for dealing with crisis, and can mobilise substantial resources for humanitarian emergency response.

Throughout the course of the conference, many delegates made reference to 'the rising East' as a potential norm changer in humanitarian action. After all, not only do many non-Western states emphasise sovereignty over interventionism as a key principle in dealings with conflict and disaster-affected countries, they also offer a different type of response with a diversity of non-governmental humanitarian actors. On Wednesday Margie Buchannan-Smith (ODI) recounted the popularity of the Taiwanese foundation Tzu Chi among disaster affected people in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan hit.[23] This faith-based organisation did not undertake vulnerability-based needs assessments and closely monitored material distributions, but instead handed out significant amounts of cash quickly, wherever they found need. These untied cash transfers offered immediate economic stimulation and a reinvigorated sense of agency and autonomy. This – observed Buchanan-Smith and Olivia Wilkinson (Trinity College Dublin) – adhered much more closely to the aspirations of Filipinos as recipients of assistance, and was therefore, arguably, much more effective in inspiring a feeling of post-disaster recovery for those it mattered to the most. Elsewhere, during Tuesday's panel on coordination and governance,[24] Alastair Cook (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies) noted that the Singapore armed services were early responders to the 2004 Asian Tsunami. In the discussion afterwards, the question was asked: will Asia replace the West in surge capacity? And what are the implications of a shift in the global distribution of humanitarian resources for coordination mechanisms and, ultimately, for the experience of aid recipients in crisis affected countries?

Clearing the Stones in the Road: Towards a Consensus on Humanitarian Effectiveness at the WHS?

The implications of a 'rising East' and a diversification of actors should be, and were, discussed with direct reference to the WHS. It is being hosted in Turkey, noted delegates, which is a very deliberate acknowledgement of shifting humanitarian geographies and the rise to prominence of Turkey as a global humanitarian actor. But, in perhaps one of the fieriest exchanges of the three days, Alex Betts (University of Oxford) argued that the WHS process is in danger of being 'hijacked'.[25] He suggested that, despite the long and inclusive consultation process, the three most

[22] 'Peacekeeping data and representations of crisis. From the 'Making Peacekeeping Data Work' project', Panel session 5, Wednesday 16th September.
[23] 'Talking at odds? Accounting for context and culture in the 'accountability' agenda', Panel session 5, Wednesday 16th September 2015.
[24] 'Coordination in crises: Authority and governance in humanitarianism', Panel session 5, Tuesday 15th September 2015.
[25] 'Clearing the stones in the road: Towards a consensus on humanitarian effectiveness at the World Humanitarian Summit?', Plenary 4, Tuesday 15th September 2015.

influential people are now white, middle-aged, European men with little field experience, and that state governments, increasingly keen to take over, are watering down proposals that have received widespread support. There was some opposition to this perspective from those who suggested that the time for consultation was now over and that, in order for the WHS to result in concrete outcomes, there is a need to streamline the process and engage state governments in the agreement of proposals since it is governments that will ultimately be held accountable for their implementation.

Whether optimistic or pessimistic about the WHS, this debate raised important questions on humanitarian governance structures and norms – a theme that was decisively picked up in the lively closing plenary.[26] Here Urvashi Aneja (Jindal School of International Affairs) noted that there is simply not enough focus on the role of Southern actors in humanitarian action. Claims of the universality of Western humanitarian norms and governance arrangements overlook a deficit of legitimacy when the full range of humanitarian actors is taken into account. Southern actors, she posited, have alternative vocabularies and do not use terms such as 'humanitarian aid', for example. This is not just a question of semantics, but of different strategic interests. Also in this plenary, Bertand Taithe (HCRI, University of Manchester) expressed some anxieties as to the role the Turkish state might play in what seems to resemble increasingly an intergovernmental process at the exclusion of the very

Plenary: A Quest? Reflections on humanitarian effectiveness

large consultative process. He also recalled that many processes come and go and that, unless the WHS becomes seen as a potential watershed moment (for example Alma Ata in 1978 on primary health care for the WHO), there is a chance that its discussions will fade without much impact. Mukesh Kapila (HCRI, University of Manchester) used the opportunity to stand up for the process, calling for focus on transformative ideas and 'a strong moral underpinning for ideas to last'. He argued that there is no point in talking about reforming governance. The mission, he said, is to spread humanity and the challenge comes from those governments who reject humanitarian norms on account of self-interest. In contrast, Juliano Fiori (Save the Children) called out the hypocrisy of those defenders of humanitarian norms who suggest that they are not themselves pursuing political interests. Whatever the value of existing humanitarian norms and governance structures, he argued, it is necessary to

[26] 'A Quest? Reflections on humanitarian effectiveness', Plenary 6, Wednesday 16th September 2015.

recognise that the development and evolution of humanitarian norms cannot be detached from efforts to exert, expand and balance power within the interstate system. He said that, both within the WHS consultations and at the conference, there has been much discussion about 'shifting power' and democratising the humanitarian system, and this does not come about through technocratic or superficial measures. Stating that the proposal to guarantee twenty per cent of humanitarian funding to local organisations falls way short and misses the point, he suggested that only through changing governance arrangements will there be significant changes in the way power is exercised within the humanitarian system.

The panelists expressed hopes that the WHS could still bring about important improvements in humanitarian action. Over the three days there were a number of practical recommendations, including the resurrection of the Humanitarian Response Index,[27] the establishment of a Humanitarian Council for decision making related to the development of, and compliance with, humanitarian norms, and independent needs assessments and evaluations. In response to calls made to maintain a space for critical engagement with the WHS process, the conference organisers, together with partner organisations, have launched a blog – www.humanitarian-quest.org/ – where these proposals and others can be discussed and developed. We invite contributions from those who took part in the conference and others interested in the WHS process.

[27] See: http://daraint.org/humanitarian-response-index/

III. FURTHER INFORMATION

ORGANISERS:

Save the Children UK
www.savethechildren.org.uk

Save the Children, is an international non-governmental organisation that promotes children's rights, provides relief and helps support children in developing countries. It was established in the United Kingdom in 1919 in order to improve the lives of children through better education, health care, and economic opportunities, as well as providing emergency aid in natural disasters, war, and other conflicts. In addition to the UK organisation, there are 30 other national Save the Children organisations who are members of Save the Children International, a global network of nonprofit organisations supporting local partners in over 120 countries around the world.

Save the Children promotes policy changes in order to gain more rights for young people especially by enforcing the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Alliance members coordinate emergency-relief efforts, helping to protect children from the effects of war and violence. Save the Children has general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The Humanitarian Affairs Team

Established in 2012, the HAT seeks to inform and support the development and implementation of Save the Children strategy, offer proposals to improve policy and practice within the organisation but also across the humanitarian sector, and foster opportunities to translate these proposals into practicable plans of action. It does this through: research and critical reflection on the practices of humanitarian organisations and the forces that shape them; direct support for the development of strategy within Save the Children; fostering a culture of critical thinking within the organisation; building relationships with researchers, writers, practitioners and policymakers, fostering opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement that might encourage innovation in practice.

Housed in Save the Children UK's Humanitarian Department, the HAT serves as a counterpoint to programmatic and technical expertise, providing insight into the conceptual and theoretical questions that underpin humanitarian practice.

HCRI, University of Manchester
www.hcri.manchester.ac.uk/about-us/

The Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) is a University of Manchester research institute shared by the Faculties of Humanities and Medical and Human Sciences. HCRI conducts rigorous research on the impact and outcomes of contemporary and historical crises, and provides postgraduate training for undergraduates and professionals interested in the humanitarian sector.

Their work is driven by a desire to inform and support policy and decision makers, to optimise collaborations between partner organisations, and to foster increased

understanding and debate within the field. Bringing together the disciplines of medicine and the humanities to achieve these goals, the HCRI aims to facilitate improvements in crisis response on a global scale, whilst providing a centre of excellence for practitioners in emergencies and conflicts.

The Institute has developed a novel configuration for research and teaching which uniquely associates practitioners, non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners, theoreticians, policy makers and analysts in sustained intellectual engagement. Combining a targeted programme of research with timely analysis on current emergencies, the Institute seeks to develop new methodologies in the emerging field of humanitarian and conflict response research.

PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATES:

World Humanitarian Summit
www.worldhumanitariansummit.org

This conference is officially associated with the World Humanitarian Summit, which is an initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and managed by UN OCHA. To be held in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016, the WHS will bring together governments, humanitarian organisations, people affected by humanitarian crises and new partners including the private sector to propose solutions to pressing challenges and set an agenda to keep humanitarian action fit for the future.

International Humanitarian Studies Association
www.ihsa.info

The International Humanitarian Studies Association is a network engaged with the study of humanitarian crises caused by natural disaster, conflict or political instability.

IHSA forms a platform for the different disciplines that address humanitarian studies. It offers a venue where these scholarly communities can meet and debate their different insights and understanding of humanitarian crises, in dialogue with policy actors and implementing agencies. Every two years, IHSA organises the World Humanitarian Studies Conference, the next of which will take place in Addis Ababa, 5-8 March 2016.

In Place of War
www.inplaceofwar.net

In Place of War supports artists and creative communities living in sites of war, revolution and conflict to build powerful networks, create social change through creativity and demonstrate the value of the arts to public space, public life and public debate. Their work is spread across five core areas: digital networks, academic research, creative entrepreneurialism, creative spaces, and artistic production.